

Coming of Age



ANNUAL MEETING

Sojourner Truth Branch Y.W.C.A.
Newark, N. J.

Wednesday Jan. 14, 1948
Sayre Hall

ANNUAL MEETING

Sojourner Truth Branch
of the
Young Women's Christian Association
Newark, New Jersey

Wednesday - 6:30 P. M.
January 17, 1940

Sayre Hall
53 Washington Street

Mrs. Beatrice Slaten, Chairman, Annual Meeting Committee
Mrs. Una Janifer, Chairman, Committee of Management

"THE SWING IS TO SOJOURNER TRUTH"

FOREWORD

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Sojourner Truth! What a glorious name for our purpose! What visions it should bring before us, what ideals to attain - patience, persistence, loyalty, courage, action, service!

Do you not see Sojourner Truth a lonely, shabby, figure at the Second National Woman's Suffrage Convention in 1852, making her way to the platform, saying to the opponents of the Suffrage Movement, "if the first woman God made was strong enough to turn the world upside down, all alone, these together ought to be able to turn it back again and now they is askin' to do it, the men better let' em". Loyalty, to womankind! Courage! Action!

Again, see Sojourner Truth in hospitals and contraband camps during the Civil War, afterwards see her instructing women in domestic duties and teaching cleanliness.

With such a person as an inspiration and with a firm belief in the purpose of the Y. W. C. A. eighteen loyal women are responsible for the Management of the Branch. Their election is democratic and represents the choice of persons committed to the purpose of the Y. W. C. A. and desiring to express their choice by using the ballot. This Committee representing (as nearly as possible) a cross section of the women of Newark works through eight committees totaling some 191 girls and women. The Committee of Management itself and sometimes special committees take care of special events.

Neither must we underestimate the value of secretaries who uncomplainingly put in long, uncounted hours to complete a given piece of work.

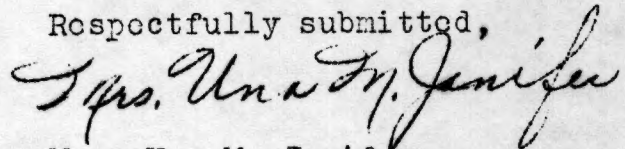
Our thanks go to those who assist our secretaries in any way keeping the building open and those who help to keep the building in shining order.

For many years we have been conscious of making progress along many lines, but this past year has been a real demonstration of that fellowship which we rightly look for in the Y. W. C. A. Our building at 20 Jones Street represents many hours of planning and executing by the women of Central Association and Sojourner Truth Branch both separately and together.

As we look into the future we see an ever widening horizon, an ever expanding work to be done. The great need is for more girls and women.

"Swing to Sojourner Truth"

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Mrs. Una M. Jenifer". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Mrs. Una M. Jenifer
Chairman Committee of Management

PROGRAM

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Mrs. Una Janifer, presiding

INVOCATION

DINNER

GROUP SINGING

MINUTES OF 1939 ANNUAL MEETING -----Miss Mollie Faison, Secretary
Committee of Management

WITH ONE ACCORD - Central Association-----Mrs. Edward E. Rhodes,
President of Board
Trustees

Miss Elisabeth Rogers,
General Secretary

SOLO ----- Evelyn Green, Girl Reserve

"DEMOCRACY - 1940" -----Rev. Norman Fletcher, Pastor
Unity Church, Montclair, N.J.

FINANCE REPORT

SPECIAL FURNITURE FUND -----Mrs. Florence Brown-,
Finance Chairman

THE MEMBERSHIP ENROLLMENT

January 17, 1940 - March 1, 1940 ----- Mrs. Lenora Willette,
Membership Chairman

Forward Swing -----Miss Mary Elizabeth Wood-,
Executive Secretary

REPORT OF ELECTION ----- Mrs. Anna Monroe, Chairman
Nominating Committee

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Program Continued

'IN THE SWING'

(Presented by Sojourner Truth's Swing Band)

The Song

Dedicated To

"What's New"	-----New Sojourner Truth Branch
"Are You Havin' Any Fun"?	-----Gyn and Swin
"Day In - Day Out"	-----Y. W. C. A. Secretaries
"Stop It's Wonderful"	-----Older Girls Clubs
"Blue Orchids"	-----Committee of Management
"Little Man Who Wasn't There"	-----Out-of-School Girls
"Scatter Brain"	-----Girl Reserves
"Faithful Forever"	-----Co-Eds
"Chatterbox"	-----Camp
"Over the Rainbow"	-----"The Swing to Sojourner Truth"

SWINGIN' HIGH

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1939 Committee of Management

<u>NAME</u>	<u>TERM</u>	<u>RESPONSIBILITY</u>
Miss Pansy Borders	1939 - 1942	CAMP
Mrs. Florence Brown (Filling unexpired term)	1939 - 1940	FINANCE
Mrs. Willie Crawford	1937 - 1940	FINANCE
Mrs. Ruth Chambers	1937 - 1940	MOTHERS' CLUB
Miss Mollie Faison	1939 - 1942	RECORDING SECRETARY
Mrs. Grace Fenderson	1938 - 1941	EDUCATION
Mrs. Elizabeth Houston	1938 - 1941	EDUCATION
Mrs. Una Janifer	1938 - 1941	CHAIRMAN
Mrs. Anna Monroe	1937 - 1940	INDUSTRIAL & NOMINATING
Mrs. Estelle Morris	1939 - 1942	HOUSE
Miss Helen Notis	1939 - 1942	PUBLIC AFFAIRS
Mrs. Mae Olphin	1937 - 1940	PERSONNEL
Mrs. Bertha Randolph	1938 - 1941	INDUSTRIAL
Mrs. Mary Robinson	1939 - 1942	HOUSE
Mrs. Beatrice Slaten	1939 - 1942	MEMBERSHIP
Mrs. Ruth Smith	1937 - 1940	GIRL RESERVE
Miss Rosalie Sowell	1939 - 1940	PUBLIC AFFAIRS
Miss Edythe Wilcy	1939 - 1941	CORRESPONDING SECRETARY
Mrs. Lenora Willette	1937 - 1940	MEMBERSHIP

NAMES APPEARING ON 1940 BALLOT:

For Committee of Management

For 3 year term (8 to be elected)

Mrs. Pearl Bell
 Mrs. Ruth Chambers
 Mrs. Mildred Davis
 Miss Elizabeth Graham
 Mrs. Anna Monroe
 Miss Mae Mulford
 Mrs. Mae Olphin
 Mrs. Carrie Powell
 Mrs. Lenora Willette
 Mrs. Wilhemina Williams

For Nominating Committee

From Committee of Management
 (3 to be elected)

Mrs. Elizabeth Houston
 Mrs. Anna Monroe
 Miss Helen Notis
 Mrs. Beatrice Slaten

From Electoral Membership
 (2 to be elected)

Mrs. Florence Brown
 Mrs. Thelma Robinson
 Mrs. Bessie Wolfe

Submitted by:
1939 Nominating Committee

Mrs. Anna Monroe, Chairman
Mrs. Pearl Bell
Mrs. Grace Fenderson
Mrs. Ruth Smith
Mrs. Helen Washington

SWINGIN' LOW

The Staff

Mary Elizabeth Wood, Executive Secretary
Landonia B. Mafrow, Girl Reserve Secretary
Gertrude A. Bailey, Clerical Worker
Robert Jones, Custodian

National Youth Administration Assistants

Doris Lewis - Alma Ray - Cecelia Sloan

(Student Aid)

Geneva Brito - Louise Holmes - Pearl Laws

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ANNUAL MEETING COMMITTEE

Beatrice Slaten, Chairman

Ruth Chinn
Ruth McNeil
Roy Phillips
Gussie Morgan
Luzera Bryant
Helen Notis
Sally Carroll
Alma Williams

Evelyn Boyden
Pansy Borders
Mary Brown
Betty White
Vivian Charles
Landonia Marrow
Thelma Robinson
Margaret Johnson

Mary E. Wood

THE UPWARD SWING

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Finance

1939 Receipts -----	\$ 1,071.95
1939 Expenditures -----	7,054.59
Received from Newark Community Chest through Central Association -----	\$ 5,914.01

Special Furniture Fund

Contribution -----	\$ 684.59
Board Appropriation -----	441.00
Expenditures -----	1,093.01
Balance January 1, 1940 -----	\$ 32.58

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Membership

Total Membership 1939 -----	305
Electors -----	154
Associates -----	97
Juniors -----	54

* * * * *

<u>Group</u>	<u>Enrollment</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
Committees & Program Assistants	191	xxx
Clubs		
Adult	135	3,398
Girl Reserve	327	3,408
Camp	62	xxx
Classes		
Gym and Swim	101)	
Tap Dancing	97)	2,174
Sewing	5)	
Special Y. W. C. A. Events	xxx	4,866
Total	908	13,846

GET IN THE SWING

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Of Special Events

January Branch

- 17 - Annual Meeting and Dinner
- 17 - Membership Enrollment begins
- 25 - Newcomers Party (Girls 16 - 21 years)
Sponsored by Industrial Committee
- 26 - Girl Reserve Hi Y Discussion Night
- 29 - Y. W. C. A. Annual Meeting & Dinner (Sayre Hall)

February

- 1 - Silver Shower sponsored by House Committee
- 7 - Y. W. C. A. Luncheon at Branch
Dr. Otto Klineberg, Columbia University, Guest Speaker
- 7 - 1940 Round Up of Class of '37
Sponsored by Public Affairs Committee
- 9 - Twentieth Century Girl Reserve Club Hop
- 9 - Industrial Girls Mid Winter Conference, Mt. Vernon, N. Y.
- 13 - Industrial Committee Dinner Meeting
Miss Clara Krantz, principal, Girls Vocational School,
Guest Speaker

March

- 1 - Membership Enrollment Closes
- 2-3 - Girl Reserve Mid Winter Conference, Summit, New Jersey
- 15 - "Rosalie Runs Riot"
Girl Reserve Committee Musical Comedy (Benefit Camp Fund)
- 17 - Palm Sunday Breakfast
Sponsored by Finance Committee
- 29 - Health Education Spring Term begins
- 29 - Emanon Club Dance

April

- 12 - Girl Reserve Spring Party
- 10-16 - Y. W. C. A. National Biennial Convention, Atlantic City, N.J.
- 19 - Girl Reserve Health Program
- 21 - Reports from National Convention

May

- 16 - Girl Reserve Mothers' Day Observance

June

- 19 - Older Girls Prom
- 19 - Swimming Classes - Summer Session
- 21 - Girl Reserve Prom
Girl Reserve Summer Conference
Industrial Girls' Summer Conference

July & August - Camp Ironsides

Ruth McNeil, Leader
Gussie Morgan, Accompanist

Evelyn Green, Soloist
Mrs. Bertha Randolph,
Accompanist

I.

I wish I could sing when I'm happy
I try but my efforts are vain
It's queer when I'm feeling so
blissful
To sound like a person in pain.

II.

Father Time is a crafty man
And he's set in his ways
And we know that we never can
Make him bring back past days
So good friends while we are here
Let's be friends firm and true
Let's have a gay time, a happy play
time,
For we all live to play with you.

III.

1-9-4-3 at Newark's 'Y'.
No other year the same
Everyone a comrade true
Whatever school, or name, or fame

1-9-4-0 at Newark's 'Y'
Sunset and evening glow
But it's the inspiration most
That makes us love it so.

IV.

Ciribiribin, the moon drops low and
With her glow lights up the scene
Ciribiribin, the moon shines bright
and,
With her light makes all serene
Ciribiribin, each twinkling star
Sends from afar its silv'ry beam,
Nature joins to bless,
Joins to wish success
Joy and happiness to love's young
dream.

V.

Picture a spot of beauty rare
Picture a sky so blue and fair
Paint it with rainbow hue so
bright:
Then tone it down with shades of
night
Frame it with inspiration true
Then let it thrill the heart of you,
A picture of Girl Reserve will be
A challenge to you and to me.

VI.

The keeper would a-hunting go
And under his coat he carried a
bow
All for to shoot at a merry little
doe
Among the leaves so green-o.

Chorus: Jackie boy! Master
Sing you well! Very well
Hoy down! Ho down!
Derry derry down
Among the leaves so green-o
To my hoy down, down
To my ho, down, down
Hay down, ho down,
Derry, derry down
Among the leaves so green-o

The first doe he shot at he missed
The second doe he trimmed he kissed
The third doe went where nobody wist
Among the leaves so green-o.

The fourth doe she did cross the
plain;
The keeper fetched her back again,
Where she is now she may remain
Among the leaves so green-o.

The fifth doe she did cross the
brook
The keeper fetched her back with
his crook
Where she is now you must go and
look
Among the leaves so green-o.

VII.

To the knights in the days of old
Keeping watch on the mountain height
Came a vision of Holy Grail
And a voice through the waiting
night
Follow, follow, follow the gleam
Banners unfurled, o'er all the
world
Follow, follow, follow the gleam
Of the chalice that is the Grail.
And we who would serve the King
And loyally him obey
In the consecrate silence know
That the challenge still holds today
Follow, follow, follow the gleam
Standards of worth, o'er all the
earth

THE FORWARD SWING

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As life begins in '40 we are thrilled to announce that the Sojourner Truth Branch is out of the "oxygen tent". Given a living wage (budget) that will assure sound leadership, wholesome diet and room for growth we are convinced that this decade will be the Fruitful (not Fateful) Forties.

"Just a tumble down shack by an old railroad track" is beautiful in song but 99% tragedy in reality.

Paraphrasing the statement made by Booker T. Washington thirty (30) years ago I would say it is "too great a compliment to attribute to the Negro child the stamina that will keep him from becoming a victim of disease, crime and delinquency in this complex age, when preventatives or substitutes are almost nihil".

A tumble down Y. W. C. A. defeats its own purpose - so we point with pride to our own little slum clearance project as our No. 1 achievement of the year. All other accomplishments are related to it.

In all surveys and reports made of Newark's Negro population crime, delinquency and disease run rampant while low wages, unemployment and poor housing boost the percentages periodically. As we sing "America" we pray for the day when our inalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness will be fully ours.

Had we directed all our attention to acquiring a more adequate location we would have achieved a material goal without strengthening program emphases (a spiritual goal, if you like.)

The recommendation on program and budget submitted by the Who and What Committee, after months of very careful study of the entire Association, and voted upon by the Board and the electors, includes the following recommendation relative to the Branch:

I. Recommendations on Program and Budget

- A. Since there is need for continued training and development of leadership among the Negro girls and women of Newark it is at this time essential that the work of the Branch be carried forward at its present strength to allow freedom for such development with continued and enlarged cooperation and participation between groups at the Branch and at Central.

Too long we have used "oh the world owes me a living" as a theme song. As we blithely sing the world goes on - owing us a living... Our major objective for the Branch is to determine what kind of a living is needed and how we go about convincing the world that this is an important unpaid debt and helping devise means of cancelling it.

Translating this in terms of our own Branch of the Young Women's Christian Association it resolves itself into erasing erroneous ideas in the community; acquiring extensive knowledge of the Association; studying Newark's needs and developing a program that will continuously be designed primarily to meet the needs of Negro women and girls. We have a vision of what the Y. W. C. A. can be in Newark and we are working harmoniously toward it.

The 305 women and girls who paid memberships last year is a high point in the year's achievements but represents numerically only a third of those served regularly by the Branch. Nevertheless on the basis of an estimated Negro community of 42,000 we believe that a paid membership of 1,000 would be more representative. However, we must take into consideration that the greater percentage of the Negro population are recent members of - or offspring of a simple, rural, Southern community hastily transplanted into a complex, urban Northern city and are not yet oriented to their present social set-

ting. We offer them the Y. W. C. A. and its program but how rapidly can we expect them to assimilate it - and pay for it?

Special attention is being given the young employed woman. According to our 1930 census the Negro population in Newark is a youth group. The scope of our program is limited because of staff but with the assistance of an interested committee we are developing among young women an appreciation of their role as workers, an understanding of their future in the work world, their relationship with other workers and coordinating their program with that of the National Y. W. C. A.

We are cognizant of the gaps in our program with young women. At present the many girls in household employment have no designated part in it. We are also concerned about the thousands of girls between the ages of 16 and 21 who are out of school, unable to secure employment and spending their leisure in questionable places. Our major emphasis for 1940 will be on this group.

Believing that the agencies working with adolescent girls in the Negro community were too few and that a further reduction in services would seriously curtail the development of Negro womanhood, the Board of Trustees voted to continue the Girl Reserve program at the Branch in spite of being forced, due to a shortage of funds, to drop this phase of their work.

Establishing democratic ideals and practicing democratic methods begins at an early age in the Y. W. C. A. Through Girl Reserve Clubs we find grade, junior and senior high school girls learning to plan and carry out their ideas - an experience that proves valuable in meeting everyday problems. Their program interests include those that are of vital importance to every teen age girl - health, Negro history, boy and girl relations, vocations and

interesting ways of spending her leisure time. Groups in music, dramatics, handicraft, cooking as well as regular business meetings are under the guidance of club advisors or experts in the various fields. These adult leaders meet regularly to discuss club and individual problems, techniques of group work and how these may be applied to their respective groups. It is vastly important for the club advisor to have a knowledge of the individuals in the club thus developing a program based on the needs and interests of the members.

Two major trends are significant in the Girl Reserve Department their expanding interest in all-Association activities and the increasing emphasis on being Y. W. C. A. members. Being able to display a membership card and urge other girls to pay the fifty cents membership fee is a new and satisfying experience. No group has participated more actively in raising the special Furniture Fund than our junior members whose contributions ranged from \$2.00 to \$70.68 - per club.

Because our Girl Reserve Secretary is on a ten month contract we have no summer program at the Branch so summer camp fills the need for a few of the girls. 1939 was the second year the Branch participated in the joint camping program with the Orange and Montclair Y. W. C. A. Fees for many of our girls are supplied by the Newark Evening News Fund. The money necessary for membership in the Inter-Association Camp Committee is raised by the Girl Reserve Committee. They also supplied some camperships.

Health Education is the infant in our family. Due to the excellent cooperation with the department at Central it is developing steadily. Activities have been based on the interests of women and girls and have included classes in basketball, tennis, reducing exercises and swimming. A periodic examination by a Y. W. C. A.

physician is required and results of the examinations are discussed with the girls individually.

Good health habits, skills and techniques are developed through this program.

For generations we have wished, prayed and sung - "showers of blessings we need". Have we recognized them in the form of current social legislation - health insurance, unemployment insurance, old age security and housing. The particular blessing we have to be thankful for is the \$14,000,000 housing project soon to be a reality. What has that to do with the Sojourner Truth Branch Y. W. C. A?

First, - The Y. W. C. A. is almost equidistant from two of the proposed projects.

Second, - No recreational leadership is to be provided for tenants although space is being allotted for clubs and other gatherings.

Third, - The managers of the projects will depend on agencies such as ours for leadership.

Fourth, - If agency budgets are already inadequate from whence cometh our help?

If we face this as a problem now we may be prepared to fit into the recreational plan when the buildings are ready for occupancy and aid in the pursuit for life, liberty, and happiness.

The continued joint activities between the Industrial Department at Central and clubs at the Branch have set a goal for others to achieve.

Last fall marked the inception of interest between the Branch and the Business Girls' Department and the extension of projects with the Health Education Department.

Miss Elisabeth Rogers, General Secretary, and Mrs. Edward E. Rhodes, president of the Board of Trustees and as representatives of

the General Administration are as interested in the development of the Branch as anyone in the Negro community and cooperative to the nth degree. May I also mention Mrs. Robert Bentley and Mrs. J. J. Bridges for their long hours spent in helping us get settled during the extreme heat of July and August.

Working with our Board of Trustees has been an elevating and challenging experience. They are an understanding, sympathetic, not patronizing group of women. Through group action and individual cooperation we saw the "building of a fellowship" that superseded all material achievements.

Our own Committee of Management, of which Mrs. Una Janifer is chairman, has shown what can happen when women understand and believe in the things they are doing. From many ideas has come one the present Sojourner Truth Branch Y. W. C. A. - and marked individual growth. Without them this report would not be.

With deepest sincerity I express my appreciation to the Branch staff who have accompanied me (though sometimes doubtfully) on my imaginative flights. To the National Youth Administration we are indebted for several of our workers. They are a part of the Branch-"family" and share our interest in the growth of the Y. W. C.A. program.

Our outlook on life has been lightened by the addition of a clerical worker to the staff and brightened by our present method of keeping the building clean.

Particularly do I want to call attention to the excellent work of our Girl Reserve Secretary, Mrs. Landonia Marrow, who from September 1, 1937, when we donned housedresses and dust caps to give Sojourner Truth a thorough cleaning to January 17, 1940 has been closer than a shadow in every undertaking.

We highly prize our relationship with the Newark Community Chest and other agencies in Newark - the loaning and borrowing of meager equipment; the sharing of overworked and inadequate staff; the "lift" in solving a mutual problem and the recognition of the role of each agency in helping the Negro adjust to the city of Newark and the white man to understand him as an important American citizen.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Elizabeth Wood

Mary Elizabeth Wood
Executive Secretary

January 17, 1940